

Household Hazardous Waste Products & Alternatives

Product	Alternative
Cleaners	
General purpose liquid	vinegar or lemon juice diluted with water; or three tablespoons washing soda in 1 quart water
Scouring powder	baking soda, salt, or borax
Metal polishes	use baking soda paste
Furniture Polish	dip cloth in olive, soybean, or raw linseed oil; or mix 2 tablespoons olive oil with 1 tablespoon vinegar and slowly stir into 1 quart water
Rug cleaners	sprinkle baking soda on rug then vacuum; use club soda on stains
Spot removers	clean spill quickly with club soda, or use baking soda paste on stains
Toilet bowl cleaner	flat cola, borax, or baking soda
Oven cleaner	wipe up spills quickly; wash with baking soda using a scrubber; or sprinkle with baking soda or salt, let sit, and then rinse
Home Maintenance	
Latex paint	use whitewash or milk paint
Oil-based paint	use latex paint when possible
Paint thinner	let paint settle out and then reuse



Glues/adesives	use white or yellow glue; let glue dry out if it is water based; save if solvent based	
Drain opener	prevent problems by using strainer and flushing pipes weekly with boiling water; use a plunger or snake; and put 1/2 cup each vinegar and baking soda down the drain, flushing 15 minutes later	
Air freshener	use flowers, herbs, or potpourri; place vinegar or vanilla in an open dish; or clean the source of the odor with baking soda	
Degreasers	detergents	
Paint stripper	sand or scrape paint	
Auto Repair		
Motor oil	none	
Antifreeze	none	
Gasoline	none; do not use as a cleaner	
Vehicle batteries	none	
Carburetor cleaner	none	
Pesticides		
Bug sprays/insecticides	handpick or trap pests; keep household clean and food covered; caulk or seal entryways	



Weed killer	maintain a healthy lawn by adjusting the pH to 6.5, mowing high with a sharp blade, and watering deeply when the soil is too dry
Flea killers	use a flea comb, vacuum often, and wash pets bedding
Wood preservatives	use wood that is naturally resistant (cedar, honey locust, oak) and protect from dampness and insects; look for recycled plastic lumber
Disinfectant	borax or pine oil with soap
Insect repellant	don't wear scented products outdoors; and burn citronella candles, punk, or incense
Miscellaneous	
Photographic chemicals	none
Artist paints	use water-based products whenever possible
Swimming pool chemicals	none
Household batteries	use rechargeable batteries
Aerosols	use pump or liquid; if not hazardous, wrap it up and discard with other household trash; save for a household hazardous waste collection program if it contains hazardous materials
Mothballs	keep garments clean; wrap in linen or seal in paper packages or cardboard boxes; use cedar chips; kill eggs by running dry garment through a warm dryer